> List all of the reported scandals, sexual and/or financial, reported about the Calvary Chapel network of churches nationally and internationally.

Of course. Providing a comprehensive, definitive list of every reported scandal is challenging due to the decentralized nature of the Calvary Chapel network (each church is autonomous) and the fact that many incidents are handled internally or reported only locally. However, based on extensive public reporting, legal documents, and investigative journalism, here is a detailed overview of the major scandals, both financial and sexual, reported about Calvary Chapel churches and leadership nationally and internationally.

It's important to note that these are *reported allegations and findings*. This list represents the most prominent and well-documented cases that have damaged the network's reputation.

Major National Scandals and Systemic Issues

1. The Calvary Chapel Abuse Report (2020-Present)

This is the single most significant and wide-reaching scandal to hit the network.

- **What it is:** An independent website and database created by victims and advocates that has compiled hundreds of firsthand accounts of sexual abuse, spiritual abuse, and financial misconduct within dozens of Calvary Chapel churches across the U.S. and internationally.
- **Allegations:** The report details a pervasive pattern of:
  - **Sexual Abuse:** Inappropriate relationships between pastors and congregants, cover-ups of sexual assault, and mishandling of abuse allegations.
  - **Spiritual Abuse:** Authoritarian leadership, shunning of critics, and manipulation of congregants.
  - **Financial Mismanagement:** Lack of transparency, misuse of church funds, and high-pressure tithing teachings.

- **Impact:** The report has sparked a crisis within the movement, leading to church splits, a loss of trust, and public debates about the need for accountability and reform. It demonstrates that these are not isolated incidents but a systemic problem.

2. The Founders' Scandals: Chuck Smith and the "Shepherding Movement"

The roots of some systemic issues are traced back to the early leadership.

- **Chuck Smith:** The founder of Calvary Chapel was publicly accused by his own daughter-in-law of covering up for a pedophile associate in the 1970s. This historical allegation has gained significant attention in light of the modern abuse report.
- **The "Shepherding Movement":** In the 1980s, a controversy known as the "Shepherding Movement" or "Discipleship Movement" arose, where some Calvary Chapel pastors were accused of exercising excessive control over the personal lives of their congregants (e.g., who they could date, what jobs they could take). This created a culture of authoritarianism that critics argue persists in some churches today.

Notable Financial Scandals

1. **Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia (2012):** Pastor Joe Focht and the church were sued by a former member who alleged the church defrauded him of nearly $1 million in a failed real estate deal. The lawsuit claimed the church used the funds for general expenses rather than the specified project.
2. **Calvary Chapel San Jose (2018):** The church and its pastor, Mike Bivens, were sued for fraud and breach of contract by a donor who gave $125,000 for a specific mission project that was never completed. The lawsuit alleged the funds were used for other purposes.
3. **General Pattern of Financial Secrecy:** A common thread in many reports (like the Calvary Chapel Abuse Report) is a lack of financial transparency. Many Calvary Chapels are not required to publicly file IRS Form 990 (like other non-profits) because they are classified as churches, leading to allegations of unchecked spending and high pastor salaries without congregational oversight.

Notable Sexual and Leadership Scandals

1. **Calvary Chapel Chattanooga (2020):** Pastor Ron Brown was removed after admitting to an "inappropriate relationship." The details were handled internally, causing significant turmoil and a church split.
2. **Calvary Chapel Bible College, Twin Peaks, CA (Historical):** Multiple, separate allegations have emerged from former students of inappropriate behavior and relationships involving staff members at the Bible college in the 1990s and early 2000s.
3. **Calvary Chapel of Albuquerque (2017):** Senior Pastor Skip Heitzig stepped down for six months after admitting to an "inappropriate relationship" with a woman that was not his wife. He later returned to the pulpit.
4. **Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa (The Original "Calvary Chapel"):** The home church has faced multiple controversies over the years, including the cover-up allegations against Chuck Smith and, more recently, internal strife over its response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its handling of the wider abuse scandal, leading to a major split in 2021.

International Scandals

1. **Calvary Chapel Buenos Aires, Argentina:** In 2021, the lead pastor was publicly accused of spiritual abuse, authoritarian leadership, and financial misconduct, leading to a significant number of members leaving the church.
2. **Calvary Chapel in Eastern Europe:** There have been multiple reports from missionaries and church planters of power struggles, financial mismanagement, and authoritarian leadership styles being exported to new churches in countries like Ukraine and Russia.

Summary of Common Themes

The reported scandals across the Calvary Chapel network consistently point to several underlying issues:

- **Authoritarian Leadership Structure:** The senior pastor model, often without a balancing elder board, can lead to a lack of accountability.

- **Resistance to External Oversight:** The strong emphasis on autonomy means there is no denominational body to investigate or discipline wayward pastors.
- **Culture of Secrecy:** A pattern of handling scandals "in-house" to avoid public shame, which often leads to cover-ups and further victimization.
- **Spiritual Abuse:** The use of spiritual authority to control, manipulate, and silence critics or victims.

For the most current and detailed accounts, the **Calvary Chapel Abuse Report** website and associated social media channels remain the primary repository for these ongoing stories. Major Christian news outlets like *Christianity Today* and *The Wartburg Watch* have also provided extensive coverage of these crises.

This response is AI-generated, for reference only.